



**State of  
California**



**Department of Toxic  
Substances Control**

# Public Involvement

FACT SHEET , August 2005

## Public to Comment on Draft Removal Action Workplan for Bear River Mill Site

### Why am I receiving this fact sheet?

The California Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) is providing this fact sheet to inform nearby residences and the public of the public comment period for the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) proposing a cleanup alternative for the Bear River Mill Site in Grass Valley, California. The 175 acre site is located in a rural area of Nevada County one mile south of the town of Grass Valley and immediately east of State Highway 49. La Barr Meadows Road divides the site on the north/south axis.



*Bear River Mill Site*

### What this fact sheet tells you:

- Overall site history and background
- What was found at the site, What is the draft RAW
- Proposed cleanup remedy
- California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption
- Future activities

### Public Review and Comment Period

DTSC encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft RAW being proposed. DTSC will conduct a 30-day Public Comment Period which begins on Friday, August 19, 2005 and ends on Monday, September 19, 2005. DTSC will accept written comments on the RAW until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Monday, September 19, 2005.

Mail written comments to: DTSC, Attn: Mr. Perry Myers, Project Manager, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 or via e-mail at [pmymers@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:pmymers@dtsc.ca.gov) . All mail must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2005. E-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date. DTSC may hold a public meeting for this project if there is significant public interest and if a meeting is requested.



## Overall site history and background

Initially the site was hard rock mined from the mid 1800's to the early 1900's. In the mid 1900's the site was used for the production of lumber and wood products west of La Barr Meadows Road. Environmental concerns for the site center on waste disposal practices from mining activities. Mine Waste Rock (MWR) was identified by visual observation at four site locations: the former Galena, and Bullion Mine areas, fill material at the former Valley Veneer Plant, and at the former Bear River Sawmill areas.

On April 4, 2003, the Bear River Development Company (BRDC) entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in order to remediate MWR from historic mining activities at the site.

The BRDC contracted with Carlton Engineering, Inc., to prepare the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to address the removal of the MWR. As a result of the previous investigations, BRDC is proposing a site cleanup known as a removal action. DTSC found that a removal action should be conducted to reduce the risk posed by the potentially harmful substances.

### What was found at the site?

As indicated above, samples of the MWR were collected and analyzed for metals. Arsenic was the main constituent found in the MWR; one sample taken found lead exceeding the screening threshold. Because arsenic levels were higher than screening and background for that area the levels were deemed to present a potential health hazard if not properly contained. BRDC determined, and DTSC agreed, that the elevated levels of arsenic and lead should be removed or contained and any impacted subsoil be removed as well.

### What is the Removal Action Workplan? (Proposed Cleanup Alternatives)

The Draft RAW presents the cleanup alternatives considered and recommends the most feasible alternative. The proposed cleanup methods considered for the four site locations include:

- **Alternative 1 – No Action** Under this alternative no remedial actions would be considered at the Bear River Saw Mill site. Future property use would be restricted.

- **Alternative 2 – Excavation and Disposal** Mine Waste Rock and waste piles would be completely excavated and transported off site to an off-site disposal facility.
- **Alternative 3 – Reuse of MWR** Mine Waste Rock would be used under roadway and parking lot areas only.

The alternatives were evaluated based on effectiveness, ease of implementation and cost. The Draft RAW recommends **Alternative 3** because it is most protective of public health and the environment and most cost effective. Once the removal action takes place and the waste is contained, the potential risk associated with this material will be reduced and the site will meet environmental and safety standards for unrestricted development with exception of the containment area which will have land use restrictions.

### What will I see during the excavation?

You will see personnel on the site using standard construction machinery as well as safety gear. As the MWR is dug up, it will be stockpiled on plastic and covered to prevent wind erosion or contact with direct precipitation.

Dust control measures such as water spray would be implemented as necessary to minimize dust. All work will be performed in accordance with a site-specific health and safety plan that complies with both state and federal regulations designed to protect the health and safety of onsite workers and the public.



## **Future Activities**

After the public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make any relevant changes to the cleanup plan. At the same time DTSC announces the acceptance or denial of the Draft RAW, anyone who submitted comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of The Response to Comments will be placed in the repositories below which have been established for the site. If the Draft RAW is approved, the MWR containment will be put into action.

## **For more Information**

If you would like more information or have questions on the Draft Removal Action Workplan, please contact Mr. Perry Myers, DTSC's Project Manager at (916) 255-3708. For questions about the public participation process, contact Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC's Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-6441. For media questions, please contact Mr. Ron Baker, DTSC's Public Information Office at (916) 324-3142.

## **California Environmental Quality Act**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has reviewed the proposed activities, and determined that they will not have an adverse effect on public health and the environment. Therefore, DTSC has exempted this project from CEQA requirements and has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE). The NOE is part of the administrative record for this project and a copy will be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.

## **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Trotter at (916) 255-6441.

## **Where can I find the documents?**

The draft RAW and all related documents can be reviewed at these locations:

### **California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control**

8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento, CA 95826-3200

Mr. Perry Myers, DTSC Project Manager  
(916) 255-3708

File Room: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

By appointment only (916) 255-3758

### **Grass Valley Public Library**

207 Mill Street

Grass Valley, California 95945

Telephone (530)273-6829

### **Anuncio**

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a ..., Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (818) 551-3842.

### *ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?*

If you would like to be on the mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to:

Please print name and address clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.

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***DTSC WEBSITE - For more information about DTSC please visit: [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)***